

HENRY JOSEPH DARGER-

"THE HISTORY
OF
MY LIFE"

Microsystems, Inc.

VOLUME FIVE

Microsystems, Inc.

What are little boys
made out of

5 What are old men made out of
What are old men made out of

Whiskey and cursing and terrible persons

7

That's what they're made out of

6 What are old women made out of

What are old women made out of

Moans and groans and aching bones

And that's what they're made out of

7 What are little ^{babies} ~~babies~~ made out of

What are little babies made out of

Teeth and feet and hot wax legs

And that's what they're made out of

4276
Probably it was only a few seconds, but so vivid were my impressions that it now seems as though I stood as a ~~spot~~ spectator for many minutes. When I recovered possession of my senses I collected the members of my family all of whom were panic stricken. I left the house and hurried them down a street that went northward where we saw a crowd of people in consternation gathering.

A darkness of night was coming on the buildings all around seemed to totter because of the noise of the coming cyclone and though we stood upon open ground of the street, yet as the area was narrow and confined we could not remain standing still without certain and formidable peril, and we therefore decided to leave the town.

The people followed us in a panic of alarm and to a mind distracted with terror every suggestion seemed more prudent than its own pressed in great crowds about us on the way down the street.

It grew more dash and was still running a little just a little and everybody became a little

a little more apprehensive, all
4277 were scared about it and the strange
noise of the winter when we
noticed a distant humming sound
which grew in volume as it came
nearer and we knew it was a
noise in the air adding to the other
sounds of the cyclone the most
peculiar and fearful sound I ever
heard.

As soon as we had reached a
convenient distance from the
houses southwest of us we stood still
in the midst of a perilous and
most dreadful scene.

The wagons, buggies and horse-
drawn carriages which people drew
out of their barns oscillated so
violently though upon level asphalt
streets that we could not keep
them steady even when completely
loaded.

The very air seemed to roll
back upon itself at a near, very
near distance a black and terrible
cloud seeming to burst with an
igneous serpentine vapor darted out
a long train of all sorts of
stuff from the ground and
fields resembling but much larger

a severe volcanic eruption.
Soon after the black cloud 4278
seemed to descend and enshroud
the whole southwestern part of the
city as in truth it entirely concealed
the distant country side and the river.
Turning my head I perceived
a cloud a dense cloud up
high which seemed to come rolling
on our track like a torrent.

Suddenly I heard a sound like
a tremendous explosion, the humming
sound grew as loud as the loudest
thunder and I saw a tremendous
cloud rushing with terrific rapidity
over the near part of the town and
the streets completely and in an
instant enveloping the former in a
sheet of flying debris.

Appalling deafening humming
sounds were issuing from the on-
rushing storm in that part of the
city which was enshrouded in
darkness. The most frightful explosion
a hundred a minute was heard
where the cloud roaring and yelling
was sweeping swiftly up the streets
beyond us with terrific electric dis-
plays, sweeping all before it and
destroying all the excursion ships
on the river. I can never forget.

4279 the howl choking whirled
which enveloped the city, that cloud
of horror was bigger it seemed than
that part of the city. It seemed
worse than the death cloud that struck
St Pierre from the volcano
Mt Pelee.

I proposed while there was yet some
light to diverge from this street, lest
my mother and children should be
crushed to death in the dark by
the crowd that followed us.

Scarcely had we stepped aside
when darkness overspread us not like
the darkness of a cloudy night
or when there is no moon but
that of a clothes closet which is
close shut with all the light put
out.)

The roar of the distant winter
was so near and loud that you
could hardly hear the shrieks
of women, the cries of children and
the exclamations of men.

Even some who called their
loudest for their little ones, or
others for their parents for their
husbands could hardly be
heard. Even those who lamented
their own fate that man the
threatened fate of his family
could not hardly be heard.

I saw through a flash of fierce
of fierce lightning many lifting 4280
their hands in prayer to God but
I know most imagined the last
eternal night was come which should
destroy the world and the heavens
together.

It was impossible to exaggerate the
horror of this day. The shaking
of the streets as by the roar of the
storm the dense obscurity of and
murky shadow of the heavens above
above, the long heavy roll of the
convulsed cloud, the student more
of the winter the shifting electric
flashes which at intervals relieved
the blackness, only to make it
gloomier than before the roar of
flying debris which flying from afar
descended like rain on us, the
clash and clang of meeting metals,
clink iron pipes and stones the
screaming up of all the distant houses,
the hurrying fugitives with wan
faces and straining eyeballs calling
on those they loved to follow them
above all, that fine impalpable but
choking dust which entered
everywhere hurled forth by the
winter from brick houses penetrating
even the lowest cellar and against
which human steel could derive

4281 no effectual protection all these things and the deafening roar of the storm must have combined into a whole of such unusual and such awful terror among us that the imagination cannot adequately realize it. The stoutest heart was appalled the best, the most best balanced mind lost its composure.

Many lost their reason and wandered through the streets, gibbering and shrieking lunatics and none we may be sure who survived the peril ever forgot the sights and scenes we had witnessed on this day of doom for many.

For a minute and forty five seconds people and even I endured all the anguish suspense and awful uncertainty. At quarter to six the darkness slightly slackened slackened. We went to see the part of the city that had been ravaged.

The scene was changed all was over the wild insane "Sweetie Pie" had passed on. Yet I knew the course it was taken Gleason city would be the next victim.

But as we saw to our surprise 4282 dismay and honor Johnson town southwest to northeast section was no more. In its place was a desolate plain, with no monuments, visible no streets or sidewalks, no street car tracks, visible no house or trees to be seen nothing a long great surface of badly plowed and torn up ground all disintegrated soil.

What ever will hide this heinous tragedy. Mt Pelee destroyed St Pierre awfully, beyond belief and killed all its inhabitants but at least it left all the houses behind. Strange freak of this twister it seemed to have missed the neighborhood of the city's main Telegraph office which was a quarter of a block away as it passed by but strange to say the instruments were found which had been sucked out and hurled a distance of more than a hundred and fifty yards.

But the telegraph office was not in its path and escaped with only broken windows caused by the vibration as it passed by.

That that part of Johnson town might never be rebuilt is probable. The twister swept away all the roads railroad beds and tracks, filled the river channel with floating debris. How many of our people were killed we never knew. Their bodies were

4283 never found I fortunately we
were not cut off like the poor
people of Bunnybury who survived
the storm. It is true that a large
number of people mostly women and
children are imprisoned by the win-
drew strewn wreckage from Chester-
brown that surrounds them.
I read and was told that it is
impossible for assistance to be easily
rendered to them by any human
beings and nothing less than a
miracle can save them from the
awful death which is confronting
them.

These poor unfortunates I believe
are the survivors of Bunnybury,
they are cut off still from escape
because of the wreckage that came
from Chesterbrown. In this way the
women and children are surrounded.

All efforts are still being
made by an army of men to
clear a path through the wreckage
to reach them and yet though
they can be seen pleading
desperately for deliverance it seems
impossible to give them aid. Even
dynamite is being used to
clear a path. Their food supply
is almost exhausted and they are
threatened with starvation.

More and more crowds of

men are going there to keep on
the work of clearing a path 4284
through the debris and it is said that
gradually but steadily they are gaining
some what but if they don't soon succeed
the poor people are doomed to abject
starvation. It's lucky for us that
what's left of Johnson Town is not
where Bunnybury is. Many persons also
are almost dying of thirst as there
people have been a week without
a drop of water except from puddles
of rain and the dirty water of the
river.

The river is littered with trees and
other wreckage."

Another member Henry John Heimer
said,

"The focus of the annihilation of the
convent was the insane suction of the
twister. Always the suction is the most
dreaded part though it comes like a most
invisible wind. The destruction of the
convent was due to immeasurable strength
of the tornado vacuum. The explosive
fury of the lower part of the
funnel had great immeasurable force
evidently acting in radial directions
as is evident in the unfixing out of
the upper sections of the convent by
the dismounting and carrying for hundreds
of yards the right seeing guns on
the Sacaln exhibition batteries both
all the big shells and the big
two ton statues of the the Virgin

4286 and chert from the front of the convent and also by the condition of what is left of the ruined houses and torn up streets and fire hydrants, and this too very odd about the writers

There were three well marked zones. First a center of annihilation, in which all property vegetable and animal life was utterly destroyed if not wiped out totally. The greater central part of Chesterbrown was in this zone, second an outward zone of terribly damaged or wrecked houses of all sizes but not a wiping out, but which also was fatal to many lives killing scores of men women and children and all sorts of animals, turning many if not all trees in this zone into mere skeletons tearing off all the bark but not utterly destroying all the trees themselves, third, outer zone not destructive zone where as only some vegetation was injured,

This was the zone only partially in its path.

The total destruction of Lincoln Park and districts of buildings on southwest and northeast of the park was also by the great superficial suction force of the water also acting in radial directions there as is evidence of the disappearance of everything there including the

the people there as of the upper parts of the convent, and the horrible thing that was done to the long necked birds and short or long necked animals, & strangely the leopard house was not in its path and escaped destruction. 4287

According to the testimony of some persons there was an accompanying flame with the tornado. Others think the force of the flung debris was sufficient to cause such destruction.

This must be investigated, I am now following the nature of this. I have seen where this strange force of the storm caused a strange subsidence of a tract of land or so on the grounds of what had once been the Gleason Orphanage Angel Guardian Orphanage and of the supermarket, and where the St Vincent's Church had been.

Therefore this "Devil's Pie" maelstrom of the air is not only the worst on record, but the most remarkable.

It altered the whole water system and the level of the soil by the awful tearing up force. Nothing can be more succinct or terse than this description of the worst tornado catastrophe on all record.

In its effects the Railroad of the Rock Island were very marked. The railbeds were ripped to pieces and what tracks were left were curved as if they had been intentionally bent.

4288 The stone abutments of the
bridges were reduced into dust
and the rail earth works sank in
a half a dozen places. It is believed
the worst thing about the winter was
the clouds of swirling flying wreckage
the clouds of swirling flying wreckage
especially all around the fiercest
"Sweetie One."

Clouds of trees, rocks and all fragments
of houses and so on were hurled
high in the air as if great and
mighty explosions flung them away above
the clouds and the vast flood of
debris rushed before the wild storm
like an arrow from a bow.

With the procession of the section of
the ironed "wind tunnel" trees, fragments
of houses or debris of every kind
of building, street asphalt all
type of railroad iron, street car tracks,
fragments of sidewalks and the
undescribable mass of drift were

more and more compacted for
battering power while blizzarding
through the air or rushing through
the streets or among the buildings
and what the advanced line of
the wind storm spared, the mass
air around the air massstrom
made up of countless battering
rams destroyed.

This city is or was twenty
eight miles long and it was
traversed at about twenty eight

minutes and all that distance it 4288
is said the loss of lives including
all those in Lincoln Park was appalling.
Survivors who passed through the awful
experience softly say that even the
dreadful Johnston flood never had such
force as this twister, and declare its
honors to have been far beyond the
powers of words to describe or narrate.

The papers had said that after the
most thorough possible official shifting
accomplished mainly through the board
of inquiry the loss of life in the
tornado is set down at two thousand
five hundred and eighty of whom the
greatest number were ? surprise as it is
said in the park

Exact figures can never be reached
as many disappeared mysteriously.
There in the convent don't count in the
loss as they were small parts of the
local country and were no residents of
Chester Brown.

One of the most striking features
of the horror was the light upward
slanting jam of wreckage that was
flung against the lowest part of
the convent on the west part that
apparently resisted the fullest fury
of this most frightful storm.

Here a mass, a tangled mass
of shattered houses, trees, railroad
and street car tracks and all other
debris were piled up against the

4289. surviving parts of the convent
in inextricable confusion packed to
solidity by the force of the storm which
carried and flung them most violently
forward like clouds of huge battering
rams.
mingled with the mass were hundreds
of human bodies & proved impossible
to separate the confused heap
and it is still there to day. Some
less tornado.

His description of how
he saw the twister come
forth and what he says
it did to the Convent.

I witnessed the approach of the storm
towards the Convent, but there was
such a shroud to it, I did not see
the form like the strangling
child.

At first it appeared like a cloud
a strangely convulsed fog of white
gray and black, and then we saw
coming, looming above the shroud
like a gigantic mile broad
column and rushing towards us with
a noise of ten legions of
howling wolves, the awfullest
squal cloud ever seen.
A moment more and the

shrieking fury reached blasted
street and Webster Avenue 4290
and in an instant the territory was
one mass of flying debris everywhere
and as high as eye could see.
Few words were spoken among us
but many in the streets half wild
with terror. I became perfectly un-
manageable. All were mad with fright. The
sight of the coming storm was
terrifying them nearly out of their
senses and this calamity coming
on its startling suddenness quite
overpowered them.

Fortunately we were in one of the
thirty one buildings that were not
in its path. Many fell on their
knees and broke out in most
frantic prayers, some saved about
the streets in still more frantic
prayer and petitions some tore their
hair and clothes to pieces in the
intensity of their fear.

Many others blind with fear
rushed headlong into the base-
ment of the houses near us and
their example induced many others
to do the same at the angel
guardian Orphanage.

One instant before the wall
of cloud struck the convent
the orphanage smoke stack from the
shock in the air produced by the
noise of the storm broke in two and

4291 the upper part fell down
nearly perpendicular catching a
number of children beneath it.
In the meantime the terrible cloud
of mad insane fury roared swiftly
towards the convent.
It had five minutes to prepare
for the shock and it may be well
imagined though it was impossible
to describe how those five minutes
went by.

Children in the convent were giving
forth a torrent of shrieks screams howls
and exclamations as the storm
yelled towards the building shaking it
to its foundation and breaking all
the window glass by the violence
of the vibration.

On towards the devoted convent
came the yelling "Sweetie Pie"
swirling every direction
like a wall rolling or rushing
towards us at the rate of more
than sixty miles an hour with
a perpendicular churning face as
high as the sky.

Less than this might appall
the stoutest heart. At this moment
we saw the face of the "strangling"
child the tongue now being the
journal, by a flash of lightning.
Then darkness shrouded it.

Most fortunately for us about
half a mile outside of
our position a bonfire of

six story building the
Dennis stood in the way? 4292
thought it some what might save
some the convent and slow the storm
immense fury by its height
strength and size. It was exposed to
the full force of the 'wave' of
wind at first met it like a wedge
and at the moment it was observed
that at the moment it was observed
reached this building it broke
and seemed to turn into a swirling
cloud of dust, with a strange geysering
and hissing sound no one can to
save their lives describe.

When it struck the convent
it more had increased to such an
extent that no human voice at
the utmost yell or shriek could have
been audible. And as it came
up it beat with ungovernable
fury at the convent the sound
mingled with its echoes through
the storm torn city, and seemed
louder than ever.

It was at this time that the
upper parts of the convent, a building
built at the most greatest expense
was entirely disappearing away with
all the children and others in it
who were about to start a big
banquet. At the same time a
great number of buildings surround-
ing the convent all likewise full
of people disappeared all away as if
in an uprushing whirl pool and never

4293 more appeared. I his dreadful incident I saw with my own eyes as the horror passed three or four stones thrown from the spot where I was. I saw the upper section of the convent with the whole con- course of people in it disappear away like a vast cloud of dust and at the same time every one of the houses almost surrounding it were drawn into the awful section which I suppose took everything away with it, not the least sign of a wreck or the children and people were ever seen after wards.

Raging onward more wildly yet "Sweetie Pie" smashed at the Angel Guardian Orphanage smashing the building to pieces and off into flying clouds of wreckage twisting building down like pinworms crashing into flying pieces all the buildings and sending and firing all children caught in the playgrounds like pieces of paper or confetti Everything in the play ground trees and all were gone. As the howling shrieking whirlwind passed away to the distance it beat its way through the other portions of the city and beat on still more awful fears the sound still mingled with its echoes from all sides of the city and seemed louder than ever.

4294 I could never have believed that any twister could have such unbelievable fury. This tornado disaster will long thought of as the most disastrous of all because its force was spent on medium pop- ular cities as far as New Jersey where commerce, touring and travel made the facts conspicuous at once.

Artists will paint and authors will write of its horrors for many years.

The scene of the wiping out of the immense Gleason Asylum the destruction of the great Convent in La Salle and the Sacred Heart Convent and Angel Guardian Orphanage in Chesterbourn the wiping out of the Supermarket and all other great places and St. Vincents Church where so many perished, will be considered the most dramatic and terrible incident in the whole history of all great storm disasters.

The parts of this country traveled over by this horrid "Sweetie Pie" as the papers said is estimated by the authorities at La Salle to have been four times greater.

4295 than any tornado ever did
4295 before and have in its four
force a strength greater than
a hundred hurricanes put to-
gether in one. The shocking
horror of this marks from the
air were felt in its devastat-
ing effects not only through
Northern Illinois but in Indiana
Ohio and other States till it reached
the sea.

At a place about twenty four
miles North of Kankakee a great
swath over a mile wide was
torn in the ground and some
entire village I forgot its name
with all its inhabitants upwards
of 9000 in number were absolutely
precipitated into the air and out
of which 1800 were the survivors.

The storm was also devastat-
ing as far to the Eastward where
the small towns of Chaumontilly,
Antigua Ohio, Barbados Indiana,
and Martindale Penn. Penn.
were wiped off the map
where the wind is said to
have had the greatest
force.

Towards the northeast the
effects of the storm was very
perceptible as far as New York
State where Lake Champlain
was disturbed, towards Dutchess.

4296 2796

Ohio it extended all the way across
the state to Harrisburg Pennsylvania which
it fortunately just struck a glancing blow,
and catcawnered off Pittsburg. The loss
was high just the same. At Sacawanna
it sucked a stream with deep water
totally dry. Further northeast it tore
through the State of New York and
savage a part of Jamestown wiping out some
kind of parts there.

The across New Jersey into the
sea, I had observed the beautiful very
large excursion ships tossed and
tumbled about into the territory from
the rivers as if they were toys roughly
treated by madcap children.

Some had broken their cables and
had been carried to the other side of
the river, five hundred yards or
more others still bigger ships had
been whirled around with incredible
swiftness or if struck by a big tidal
wave other big boats were heeled
upward fifteen yards from the river.

If you have ever seen the size
of these ships and what the storm
did you would think it very
astounding and would say -
"What a tornado!"

2497

4297 After the passage of the storm I found a small concourse of people that had escaped, people of both sexes and of all rank and conditions. There were also several priests who had worn from the altars in their sacerdotal vestments, ladies half dressed, children of both sexes totally naked, cut and bruised, many without shoes, all these with or whom their mutual dangers had here near the building missed by the storm assembled as to a place of safety were on their knees in prayer with the looks of death on their countenances what a tornado.

Nothing also could be heard but some one bewailing the loss of their nearest relatives. In some cases lay coaches with their masters, horse and riders almost crushed to pieces, there ladies richly dressed here mothers with infants in their arms, priests, friars, gentlemen, mechanics either on the same condition or

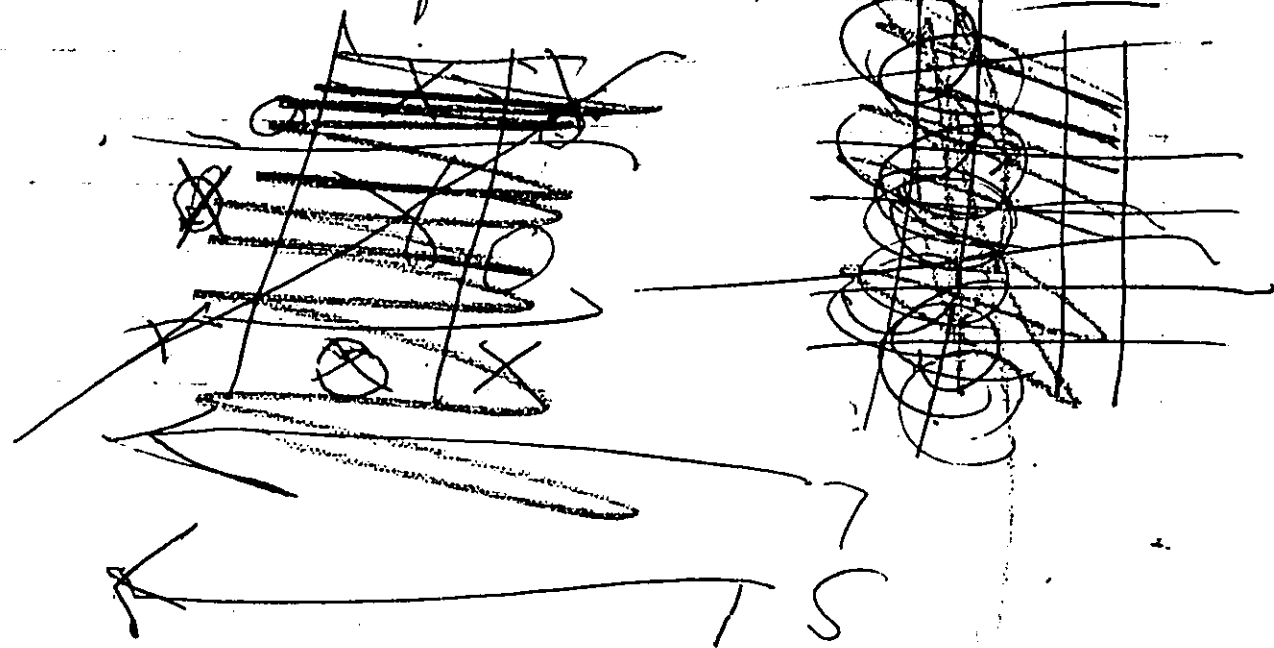
just expiring, some had 2498 their backs broken others great 4298 stones on their breasts, some lay almost buried in the rubbish and crying out in vain for succor but help could not come yet and they had to be left to perish with the rest.

They were so bruised and wounded that they could not stir to help themselves. For my part when the destruction was still on, and that wind raising with the fury of all hell and its millions of lost souls I only wished I might be made an end of at once, and not merely have my limbs broken in which case I could expect nothing else but to be left upon the spot, lingering in days misery like those poor unhappy wretches without receiving the least succor from any person.

All these facts tend to show that this twister did form between the two thunderstorms, must have had its origin there and that the disturbance that formed it must have been of a most violent kind.

4301 longer and wider park than
the one in Chicago along the lake
front. I went myself to see Mrs
Rooney who before the disaster
is still prostrated over the news of
the terrible disaster as the two little
girls the best singers of all the
nuns were in the ill fated
Convent. She at the first news that
she received had swooned into
that trance you spoke of, and
is still like that and in a serious
condition.

It is said though she is slowly
recovering she still knows no one
and still screams "oh they're dead
they're dead". Her two daughters were
in the upper part of the
Convent which was exposed
to the force of the wind.



Her two little girls were rated
as the most brilliant and 4302
beautiful singers, had the most
beautiful voices. For two years
they had sung in Catholic Churches
and on stages and had been the
two best little sopranos in
the world and very pious.

So there is very deep grief in
the "University" Hospital. Poor Mrs
Rooney is still prostrated and still
is in a delicate condition. With her
still is her mother who is still
furious over the disaster, and her
two sisters are now there who
vainly try to cheer her and take
care of her prostrated daughter.

They try to cheer her with
what is still vain hopes.

Her mother anticipates that
her daughter will not survive
her ordeal.

She blames God and is furious
at Him. The poor foolish
woman, that won't help her
daughter, and she is endangering
her soul. The Rooney have
been in Chester brown for five
years where her father is.

4303 man of means is in
Chicago for a time. Six years ago
he met Annny Rooney his beaut-
iful girl friend and married her.
She is here now with her
daughter. H. O. H. Hoosand

Her husband's name is also
Rooney. The poor daughter is
now ~~soon~~ surrounded by
friends. Every time the phone
rings her mother starts. She
herself is not permitted to
answer the summons, but anxiously
asks, "Is there any news?"

Why should such a calamity be. The morals of the inhabitants of Chesterbourn were very, yes very and unusually good almost holy. Bad women were never seen among the people. The goodness and respectfulness of children of all ages could not be believed.

They were lovely and most obedient and lovely to their parents, school-teachers, and other superiors.

The best yet in the
convent. Many of those boys
and girls decided to become
priests, brothers or nuns when

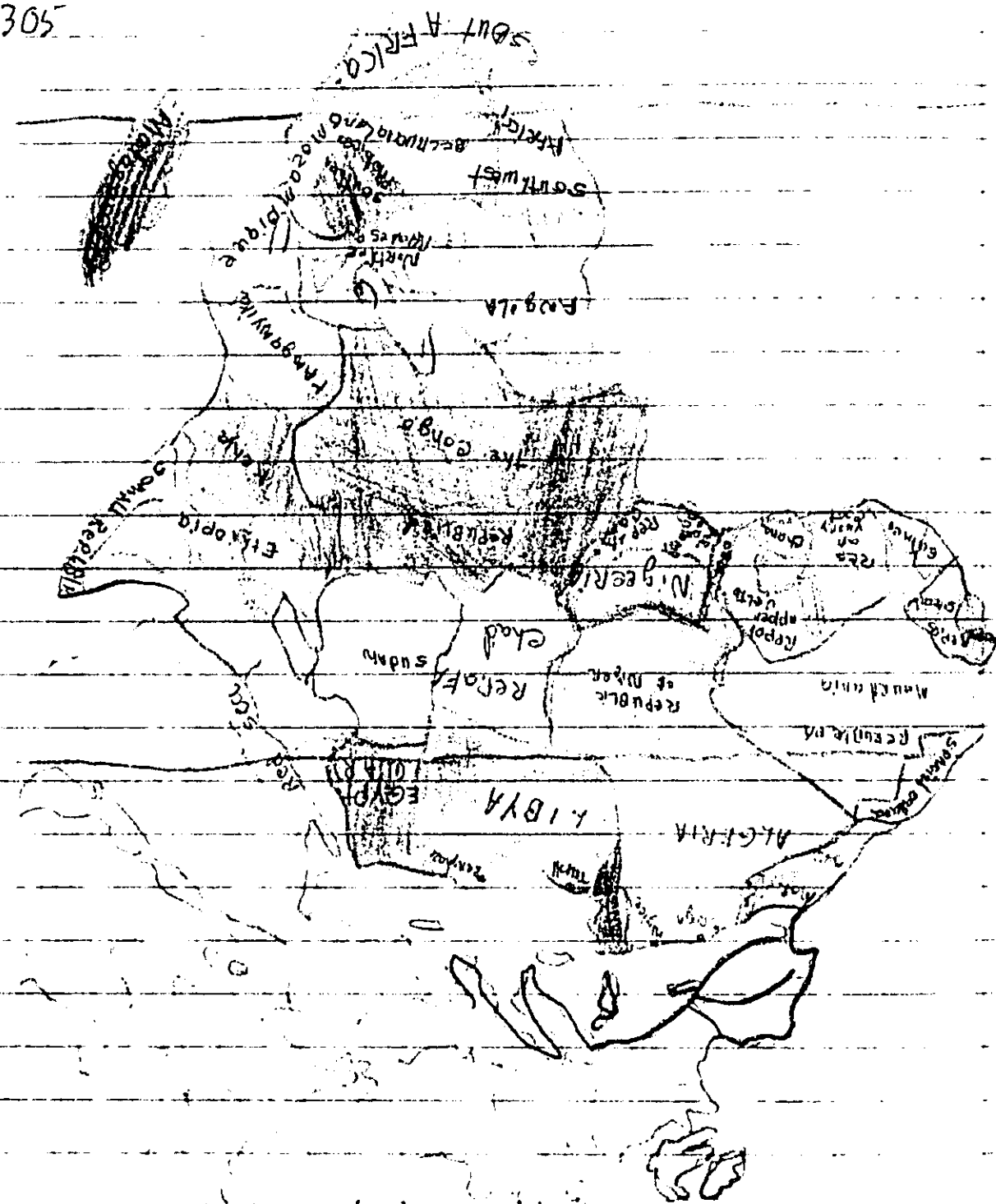
• They grew up - There was 4304
no vice or immorality or the slightest
breaking of the law among them.
Every elder child and all able
bodied adults were daily Mass
attendants and receivers of Holy
Communion. And attended every
afternoon or evening devotion.
Seldom quarreled among each other.
Gave generously to the Church
contribution and the poor.

I cannot fracture the holy mor-
ality of that place vividly enough.
It had to be seen to be under-
stood, then why should such a
catastrophe happen to them? I sure can't
understand it.

Indeed the awful suddenness of the overwhelming disaster in Chester town and the unspeakable wholesale grief and horror it caused, gives it pre-eminence among the great ~~east~~ catastrophes of which we will now have records.

It impresses upon us the transitoriness of man and the works of man.

1. The tremendous convolution
of nature that produced
this sweeping devastation



AFRICA

Journal of the

with such marvelous 4305
 swiftness vividly recalls "shakes
 spheres lines: "The great globe
 itself yea all which it inherits
 shall yet dissolve"

The destruction of Chesterbourn
 came without premonition, or
 with such brief warning as to
 make escape impossible for
 many of the people of Chester-
 bourn and other cities in its
 horrible path.

The earliest reports of very
 great calamities are often ex-
 aggerated, but in this present
 instance it does not appear
 as yet that even the first and
 latest estimate of the loss of
 life was overdrawn.

It is certain that nothing that
 appeals to human pity is lack-
 ing in this most appalling
 crisis. This most colossal
 tragedy will and did arouse
 the sympathy of the whole
 country and efface national
 boundaries for nothing that
 inflicts humanity this most

42

4306 grievously and lamentably can be foreign to us. I heard thinking of Mrs Rooney that it has been impossible for her grand parents to fully realize the awful calamity that has befallen her at Chester brown. They were there last Christmas to celebrate the great day. Yet the others and the Rooneys really lived in Chester brown with many other near relatives.

Rooney's grandfather is a very prominent architect and was a member of the City Council in Chester brown. They will be left for the time being without funds but of course as soon as some idea of the true conditions in Chester brown is obtained their affairs can be attended to.

~~Robbery story as told by~~

Room-1056
9/1/1919

Robbery story as told by

They are all too stunned by their loss but it is said that now they know the full extent of their loss and of the disappearance of her two children they will do what they can to lessen the effect of the blow. A meeting will be held in a few days. The call will be issued by Mr. Rooney who is regarded as the leader of the colony here.

There's another thing I've got to bring to your notice here. I've got a paper here that has a written statement here printed by some one. It states the wind speed of this storm was five thousand two hundred and eighty miles per hour. "Yes that is right" I said. "We have full reason to believe our evidence has proved the extraordinary pressure - wait a minute. How did he say it blows?"

"Five thousand two hundred and eighty miles an hour." "Oh so it did? Then how come it took a minute and a fraction to come and go? What manner of wind did they let him out of? Why that I believe is a mile and a fraction a second. If that was so Chester brown then would be blown across the country. Was the Editor of the paper as nutty as he was to allow that crazy statement to be printed in the paper?"

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9308

4306

can I
think
has
parent
calam
Chester
Christ
day
really
other me
promu
ber of t
They
being
as soon
true ci
is obla
attende

freobury

1914-1915
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4369 Every body was laughing. But
I was too excited to think it
was funny.

"Maybe he didn't take a look a
good look at the statement" Mr
Cremitt said handing me the
paper. I read:

In the terrible damage that
was done and the wrecking of
so strong a building as the con-
vent it is possible that the
wind speed and force of the
tornado is five thousand two
hundred and eighty miles an

hour. This appalling catastrophe
which tore away so much of
Chester town resulting in the awful
destruction of so many towns
and thousands of lives horri-
fied every part of the country
where the news could get through.

Without warning the most
terrible tornado that ever occurred
overwhelmed the doomed cities
and towns.

In the space of a few seconds
all of Chester town was turned
into an unparalleled scene of awful
devastation by a wind blast of
5280 miles an hour. Few
thousands escaped the horrible
fate that swept a vast multitude